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ICT Jihadi Monitoring Group **PERIODIC REVIEW**

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Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

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Highlights

- A number of jihad fighters identified with **Al-Qaeda** publish eulogies in memory of **Sheikh Abu al-Faraj al-Misri**, a former member of the Shura Council of Al-Nusra Front who was killed in a drone strike in Syria. Sheikh Abu Abdullah al Shami, a member of the Shura Council of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, threatens to take revenge against the US in response to the killing of al-Misri and other jihad fighters.
- **Sheikh Khalid bin ‘Umar Bartifi**, a senior member of **Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula**, claims that the Sunni population in Syria, Iraq and Yemen is being subjected to systematic slaughter by the Crusader-Shi’ite coalition. According to him, Iran is exploiting the instability in the region in order to gain control over Mecca and Medina. In light of this, he called on Sunni cleric to make Sunnis aware of this danger and to support the mujahideen, and he called on tribes and youth to fight against the enemies of the Sunnis either by joining the ranks of the mujahideen, through economic support or other means. Finally, he praises jihad fighters and emphasizes that their actions are of very important for the Muslim Nation, as is unity among the ranks.
- **Abdelmalek Droukdel**, the leader of **Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb**, calls on residents of Libya and on the youth to help defend the Muslim Nation, especially in Benghazi, Libya, from the aggression of the tyrant regimes collaborating with the French and British. According to him, Khalifa Haftar’s regime in Libya and the regimes in Egypt, the Emirates and Jordan, stand out for their persecution of Muslims and their suppression of Islam.
- **Ahrar al-Sham** and **Jund al-Aqsa** blame one another for the failure of efforts to battle against the Alawite regime forces and for the growing power of the Islamic State due to the tensions between them. Jund al-Aqsa adds that it swore allegiance to the leader of the **Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Abu Muhammad al-Julani**, in order to unite the ranks of the Syrian revolution.
- Islamic rebel factions in Syria, led by **Ahrar al-Sham**, criticize **Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi**, a prominent Salafi-jihadist ideologue in Jordan, for his implicit support for suicide attacks against forces operating in Operation “Euphrates Shield”, which is mainly composed of the Turkish army and Syrian opposition groups fighting against the IS. **Abu Maria al-Qahtani**, who served as the former religious authority for **Al-Nusra Front**, calls on al-Maqdisi not to intervene in the Syrian arena and accuses him of spreading radical ideology promoting the IS, among others.

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New Publications

Ideology

Al-Qaeda and its Supporters

- Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a prominent Salafi-jihadist cleric, called for the establishment of “Dar Islamiya” (Islamic house) instead of an Islamic State. He explained the difference between “Dar Islamiya” and an Islamic State and claimed that the former can also be established without seizing control of a country’s capital city. He clarified that “Dar Islamiya” can be established in a village or certain area, and that it is a mobile space not bound by the borders of contemporary states. He further claimed that “Dar Islamiya” is a new type of state that does not require a capital city, international recognition or currency, which are the symbols that characterize countries today. In addition, such a state would not be subordinate to international institutions such as the United Nations, the Arab League, the international court and the international bank since they are criminal institutions bereft of Islamic principles. In addition he warned against making concessions for the establishment of “Dar Islamiya” and claimed that the Islamic State movements operating today are sacrificing the Islamic foundation of the state and its Sunni nature.¹
- Several Syrian faction leaders criticized Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a prominent Salafi-jihadist ideologue in Jordan, for his implicit support for suicide attacks against forces operating in Operation “Euphrates Shield”, which is mainly composed of the Turkish army and Syrian opposition groups fighting against the IS. Among al-Maqdisi’s critics were Abu al-Abbas al-Shami, who is considered the guiding spirit of Ahrar al-Sham. It should be noted that in September, al-Maqdisi accused Operation “Euphrates Shield” participants of apostasy in light of their battle “under the guidance of the Turkish army and the US Air Force”, according to him.² Additional criticism was directed against al-Maqdisi by Abu Maria al-Qahtani, who served as the shari’a arbiter of the former Al-Nusra Front. Al-Qahtani called on al-Maqdisi not to intervene in the Syrian arena and accused him of spreading radical ideology promoting the IS, among others.³

¹ <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

² <https://goo.gl/JfcNKS>

³ <https://goo.gl/KXWEK6>

- Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, a prominent Salafi cleric who supports Al-Qaeda, referred to the raising of the Hezbollah flag in London during Ashura march. Al-Sibai claimed that raising the Hezbollah flag in London was designed to cover up the organization’s failure in the war and the killing of its members in Syria, its disappointment with the Houthis in Yemen and its identification with Russia, which is harming the Syrian people. He added that Shi’ites believe that Sunnis are the descendants of those who killed Hussain and, therefore, every year they try to incite an ethnic civil war in order to perpetuate the conflict.⁴
- Al-Malahem jihadist media institution, which belongs to AQAP, published two videos in the framework of a series of publications titled, “Understandings”. In the first video (no. 15), Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, a former senior member of the organization, described all actions directed against jihad fighters as criminal activity. In the second video (no. 16), Qasim al-Rimi, the leader of the organization, addressed the importance of brotherhood between jihad fighters.⁵
- The Nukhbat al-Fikr jihadist media group, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda, published a book titled, “A Footnote to the Book of Islamic Shari’a and its Implementation according to the Law” (314 pp.) by Abu al-Hasan al-Bulaydi, a former member of AQIM’s Shari’a Council. Sheikh Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a senior cleric in the Salafi-jihadist movement attached an introduction to the book.⁶



The binding of the book

⁴<http://english.aawsat.com/2016/10/article55360184/britain-investigates-hoisting-hezbollah-flag-ashura-procession> (English).

⁵ <http://ia601505.us.archive.org/19/items/mafahem15>; <https://justpaste.it/mafahem16>

⁶ <https://justpaste.it/Blidy>

The Islamic State and its Supporters

- Al-Wafa jihadist media institution published the following:
 - An article by a writer known as “a Yemenite proud of his Islam” in which he analyzed the future of the jihad movement in Egypt under al-Sisi’s regime. In the framework of the article, the writer presented a theory according to which the “world order” forces will try to sow separation among the ranks of jihad fighters in Egypt by establishing organizations and groups to seemingly serve as an opposition to the regime but will actually fight against the IS in Sinai in order to preserve the regime as a “protective barrier” for the Jews. The writer explained that al-Sisi’s regime and its allies, including the clerics who serve it, will try to copy the multiplicity of Syrian factions in Egypt by returning Egyptian foreign fighters from Syria, freeing prisoners from jail, and employing clerics who will welcome the move and the penetration of these factions into Sinai in order to fight against the IS instead of the Egyptian army.⁷
 - An article by a writer known as Abu Sufyan al-Shimali titled, “The Media of the Western Crusade – Al-Jazeera Station as an Example”. In the framework of the article, the writer claimed that the media station is broadcasting fake news that serves the “Crusaders”, specifically in the context of the battles over the city of Mosul. The writer described Al-Jazeera station as another layer of support by Qatar for the Americans alongside military and oil bases.⁸
- Al-Battar jihadist media institution published the following:
 - An article by a writer named Gharib al-Sururiyya titled, “Jihad with the Secular Camp against the Monotheists – the Sahawat under the Banner of Turkey”. In the article, the writer attacked the entrance of Turkish forces into areas of IS control in northern Syria, especially the local militias that are cooperating with the Turks. Firstly, the writer presented excerpts from the Turkish constitution in order to prove that Turkey is a “secular and infidel” country and, therefore, anyone who forms an alliance with it is also considered an apostate. In order to substantiate this argument, the writer quoted Sheikh

⁷ <http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-296y4qnj1-pdf.html>

⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab and other clerics who argued that anyone who helps the polytheists against the Muslims should be considered an infidel even if he himself did not abandon his faith in one God. The writer ended the article with the conclusion that members of the Sahawat are considered infidels just like Turkish army soldiers and US army soldiers and, therefore, it is permissible to kill them.⁹

- An article by a writer known as “Servant of the Caliphate” titled, “Loyalty and Disavowal: The Fruits of Monotheism”. In the framework of the article, the writer presented quotes from the Islamic tradition that forbid living alongside “polytheists and infidels” or helping them, and added that one should not listen to the clerics who permit helping the “infidels” against a joint enemy. The writer attacked militias cooperating with the forces fighting against the IS and explained that all of these forces – including the Crusaders, Jews and members of various factions (including Al-Qaeda) – that are fighting against the IS are only doing so because it upholds the laws of Islam, and added that they are indiscriminately killing Muslims, fighters and civilians.¹⁰
- An article by a writer known as Hatem al-Sumali titled, “Mosul – A Dead End”. In the framework of the article, the writer addressed the battle for the city of Mosul, explained that many forces are involved in the battle, and emphasized that the enemies of the IS mistakenly believed that Mosul is the way to defeat the organization but that the IS draws its strength from its belief in the righteousness of its path and not from one city or another.¹¹
- The Thabat jihadist media institution published an article by Umm al-Hasan al-Muhajira titled, “A Message to the Wives of the Mujahideen”. In the framework of the article, the writer explained to the wives of the mujahideen that their jihad must be expressed in support for, and service to, their husbands. As support for her statements from the Islamic tradition, she presented examples of women in Muslim history who took part in jihad by providing food for the fighters and treating

⁹ <https://justpaste.it/zd1q>

¹⁰ <https://justpaste.it/zd9k>

¹¹ <https://justpaste.it/zlxz>

their wounds. In addition, the writer encouraged wives of mujahideen to guard their husbands' privacy, show hospitality and make do with little.¹²

- The Haqq news agency, which is identified with the IS, published an article regarding the killing of Abu Muhammad al-Furqan, who was described as the person responsible for the organization's main media department. The article included praise for al-Furqan for vigorously promoting IS propaganda by establishing media institutions and various magazines, and for succeeding in refuting the enemy's news.¹³
- A writer known as Abu al-Yaman al-Ghazi published an article on the subject of demonstrating loyalty to infidels. The writer noted several ways in which a person becomes an infidel: demonstrating affection for infidels and their values (democracy and secularism), assisting them against Muslims, forming alliances and agreements with them (for instance, in implementing a democratic regime). The writer explained that it is permissible to accept assistance from infidels only in a situation in which Muslims hold the power and there is a Muslim regime, and only if there is a real need for the assistance.¹⁴
- Several IS-supporting writers published posts and articles regarding the battle in the city of Mosul. The publications mainly included messages of reinforcement and encouragement for the fighters in addition to a promise of divine victory, even if it is delayed in coming.¹⁵

Strategy

- A writer on the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a post titled, "To the Lions of Jihad and the Lone Wolves". In the framework of the post, the writer encouraged Muslims in various Western countries (France, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Britain, Germany, Russia and Australia) to carry out "lone wolf" attacks inspired by previous attacks such as the Kouachi brothers or Amedy Coulibaly. The writer incited to slaughter, burn, murder and blow up citizens

¹² <https://justpaste.it/zeg1>

¹³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/54295>

¹⁴ <http://up.top4top.net/downloadf-287seqv1-pdf.html>

¹⁵ [https://shamukh.net/vb\(Arabic\);https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0MWR_rIRc-5Z0pZQ0VOWU04UWM/view](https://shamukh.net/vb(Arabic);https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0MWR_rIRc-5Z0pZQ0VOWU04UWM/view)

of these countries in light of the participation of the above-mentioned countries in attacks in Syria and Iraq.¹⁶

- A writer known as Al-Jamuh al-Maqdisiyya opened a discussion on the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum regarding the use of comical tools in the framework of propaganda against the enemies of the IS. The writer claimed that just as in the West and in certain Arab countries they mock the IS, the IS and its supporters must include comic elements in their PR system that will draw more public attention than thousands of articles. In contrast, other visitors to the forum claimed that “stooping down to the level” of the enemy, which does use such comic means, is likely to slip into profanity and vulgarity.¹⁷
- Visitors to the Shumukh al-Islam jihadist Web forum held a discussion regarding the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) as an attack tool. The discussion arose against the backdrop of the use of a drone that was activated in the area of Erbil, killing two Peshmerga fighters and injuring two French soldiers. One of the visitors noted that drones can be used as an assassination tool but another visitor responded that quadcopter drones cannot bear heavy weight and, therefore, are not suited to the task.¹⁸
- The Amaq news agency published a poster according to which during the hijraic year 1437 (2015-2016), the IS “zakat department” distributed approximately 30 million dollars in Syria and Iraq. According to the poster, 15.4 million dollars were distributed in four provinces in Iraq, and 14.2 million dollars were distributed in seven provinces in Syria.¹⁹
- Al-Himma publishing house, which belongs to the IS, published a pamphlet titled, “The Sale: What is Permitted and What is Forbidden” in which it discussed the laws of commerce;²⁰ a pamphlet regarding the application of *takfir* on anyone who abandons his belief in the Oneness of God by Sheikh Muhammad bin ‘Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of the Wahhabi movement in the 18th century.²¹

¹⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁷ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁸ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/photo747689042878000371.jpg>

²⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

²¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- The Ibn Taymiyya jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the IS, published an article titled, “Turkey under the Banner of the Cross” by an anonymous writer named Abu Bakr Awwab. In the article, the writer levelled harsh criticism at Turkey for the widespread use of the Turkish Air Force against IS strongholds since the start of the Euphrates Shield Campaign on August 24, 2016. According to him, Erdogan pretends to present Turkey as a country that works for the welfare of its people and protects Muslims, but it actually persecutes its enemies and even cooperates with the Americans against the mujahideen and the Caliphate by providing logistical assistance and permitting the use of airports. Moreover, the writer accused Erdogan of having a hand in the crimes by the Syrian regime against the citizens of the country due to his lack of intervention. In summary, the writer emphasized that “Turkey’s only goal is war against the IS with American air cover in the framework of the enormous efforts to destroy the dream of Muslims that has become a fait accompli [...]”.²²

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- Al-Fida jihadist Web forum, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda and its branches, published a eulogy in memory of Abu al-Faraj al-Misri, a member of the Shura Council of the former Al-Nusra Front, who was killed in a drone strike.²³ As a result of the killing, many Al-Qaeda supporters published eulogies, including the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham, Jund al-Aqsa, Sheikh Hani al-Sibai, and others who discussed his contribution to jihad.²⁴ Sheikh Abu Abdullah al-Shami, a member of the Shura Council of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, eulogized al-Misri and criticized the US for killing him. He added that the mujahideen will avenge the deaths of their martyrs and that behind every martyr are 100 people who will continue his path.²⁵

²² <https://dawaalhaq.com>

²³ <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

²⁴ <https://justpaste.it/yyme>

²⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxUpWjaLFW0>



Abu al-Faraj al-Misri

Magazines

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published issue no. 127 (44 pp.) of its magazine, *Al-Somood*, which covers the arena of jihad in Afghanistan, for the month of October 2016.²⁶



The banner of *Al-Somood*

- The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan published a new issue of its magazine, *Shari'at*: issue no. 56 (48 pp.) for the month of October 2016.²⁷
- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published issues no. 26-27 of its magazine, *Al-Masra*, which contained reviews of the various arenas of jihad in which the organization's fighters and

²⁶ <https://justpaste.it/zd45>

²⁷ <http://www.mujali.com/?p=693>

supporters are operating. Among other things, the magazine included an interview with Sheikh Ibrahim al-Qusi, a senior AQAP leader, about his personal life.²⁸

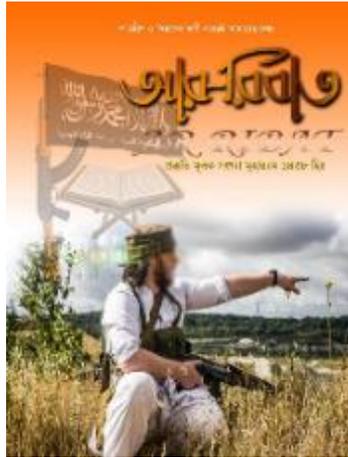


The banners of *Al-Masra*

- The Ribat jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, launched a new magazine titled, *Al-Ribat*, in English. Among the topics covered in the issue were: words of praise for Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, the former leader of the organization; criticism of the IS; the importance of fulfilling the commandment of jihad and its precepts; and more.²⁹

²⁸ <https://fotooh.org>

²⁹ <https://archive.org/details/ArRibatMegajin>



The banner of Al-Ribat

- Issues no. 49-52 of the periodical, *Al-Naba*, were published by the Islamic State.³⁰ The magazine's articles covered various topics, including: reports on the organization's attacks in various arenas, locating Sahawat and executing them, an interview with the Emir of the Hijra Authority (responsible for welcoming migrants and preventing negative migration from the Caliphate, an interview regarding the Battle of the End of Days in the town of Dabiq, and interviews with the Emir of the legal department regarding Sahawat factions in Syria and with the governor of Tripoli Province in Libya.



The banner of the new issues of *Al-Naba*

³⁰ <https://ia801503.us.archive.org/21/items/Naba49/Naba49.pdf>;
https://ia801905.us.archive.org/2/items/hfdhuyhre_mail_50/50.pdf ;
https://ia801203.us.archive.org/7/items/zruu52/Sa7ifaf_Naba51.pdf; <https://archive.org/details/pkwy52>

- Issues no. 1-2 of the magazine, *Al-Waqaar*, which supports the IS, were published.³¹



The banners of the new issues of *Al-Waqaar*

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

The first half October opened with an attack by the Taliban in Afghanistan on the city of Kunduz, located in northern Afghanistan,³² which led to severe clashes between the organization and Afghan security forces.³³ As a result, thousands of residents fled the city, including most of the medical team working in the city's hospitals.³⁴ In addition, later in the month the organization claimed responsibility for the crash of a military helicopter in Baghlan Province in northern Afghanistan.³⁵ In addition, the organization took control of the Ghormach region, which is located in Faryab Province in northwest Afghanistan. The area is important due to its location on the Afghanistan-Turkmenistan border.³⁶

³¹ <https://justpaste.it/z9cm>; <https://justpaste.it/zlbc>

³² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/taliban-launches-attack-afghanistan-kunduz-161003034257759.html> (English)

³³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/fighting-rages-afghanistan-kunduz-day-161004043525820.html> (English).

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/afghanistan-taliban-fire-forces-doctors-flee-kunduz-161006091257573.html> (English).

³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/afghanistan-army-helicopter-crashes-baghlan-161009050900935.html> (English).

³⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/afghanistan-taliban-captures-ghormach-district-16101141613477.html> (English).

Moreover, in the framework of the launch of the attack to gain control of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, the organization detonated a car bomb in the city.³⁷

Meanwhile, the IS claimed responsibility for a shooting attack that was carried out against Shi'ite worshippers at a mosque in Kabul who gathered at the site to celebrate Ashura.³⁸ A similar attack took place 24 hours later in Balkh Province in northern Afghanistan.³⁹

Meanwhile, at a conference held in Belgium regarding support for Afghanistan, a budget of 15.2 billion dollars was approved to be allocated to Afghanistan from other countries for the next three years in order to rehabilitate the country's economy.⁴⁰

The second half of October opened with reports of two rounds of secret peace talks that were held between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Afghanistan in Qatar, in the presence of an American diplomat.⁴¹ While talks were being held, the Taliban continued to capture territories in Urozgan Province in southern Afghanistan without resistance.⁴² In addition, the organization published for the first time an image from a drone showing an attack that the organization carried out in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan.⁴³ Analysts claimed that the use of this technology for propaganda purposes is an imitation of the IS.⁴⁴ Moreover, it was reported that the Taliban was helping local tribes in eastern Afghanistan in their battle against the IS.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, the IS kidnapped 30 civilians in Ghor Province in northwest Afghanistan and executed them in revenge for the killing of one IS commander in the province.⁴⁶

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

³⁷<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/suicide-car-bomb-attack-kills-14-afghanistan-161010105006840.html> (English).

³⁸ <https://goo.gl/ODYMuc>

³⁹ <https://goo.gl/meUunj>

⁴⁰ <https://goo.gl/xg6MD1>

⁴¹ <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2016/10/18/taliban-and-afghanistan-secretly-restart-peace-talks-in-qatar> (English).

⁴² http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/31/world/asia/taliban-afghanistan-army.html?_r=0 (English).

⁴³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/taliban-drones-film-attacks-afghanistan-161023061347421.html> (English).

⁴⁴ <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2040659/taliban-copies-isis-and-produces-slick-drone-propaganda-video-showing-suicide-bomber-explosion-in-afghanistan/> (English).

⁴⁵ <http://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-join-local-forces-to-battle-islamic-state-in-afghanistan/3561835.html> (English).

⁴⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/afghanistan-30-civilians-shot-dead-taliban-ghor-161026061821724.html> (English).

- The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan published the following:
 - An announcement regarding a conference in Belgium in which financial aid was promised to the government in Kabul. In the announcement, the organization claimed that the money that was given to the country at previous conferences did not reach civilians but rather landed in foreign hands or their supporters in the country. The organization added that if the goal of the conference was to promote the Afghan nation, then it must first demand an end to the occupation in the country and provide financial support to encourage the country's development so that it can be independent. However, the organization claimed that most of the aid packages reach corrupt commanders or serve to destroy the country and kill its residents.⁴⁷
 - An announcement to mark the 15th anniversary of the American invasion of Afghanistan. In the announcement, the organization condemned the US invasion into Afghanistan and claimed that the Americans did not achieve the goals that it set for Afghanistan after its invasion, including an end to drug trafficking, the formation of a government according to the will of the Afghan people and the establishment of peace, security and stability in the country. At the end of the announcement, the organization called on the Americans to leave Afghanistan and threatened to continue its struggle against them until they do so.⁴⁸
 - Video clips showing the organization's recent advancement in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan⁴⁹ and in Baghlan Province in northern Afghanistan.⁵⁰
 - Video clips showing the organization's capture of Kunduz Province in northern Afghanistan⁵¹ and the Nawa area in Helmand Province.⁵²
 - A video clip regarding a convoy attack in Baghlan Province.⁵³
 - An announcement regarding a false report by the Guardian newspaper. In the announcement, the organization claimed that reports published in the newspaper regarding a meeting held in Qatar between representatives of the organization and

⁴⁷ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=4982>

⁴⁸ <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=5327>

⁴⁹ <http://www.shahamat-video.com/wp-content/uploads/Video/Alemarah-Studio>

⁵⁰ <http://www.shahamat-video.com/archives/1058>

⁵¹ <http://www.shahamat-video.com/archives/1032>

⁵² <http://alemarah-english.com/?p=5343>

⁵³ <http://www.shahamat-video.com/archives/1094>

representatives of the government in Kabul were not true. The organization further added that there has been no change in its policies vis-à-vis negotiations with the government in Kabul, and it asked the media not to publish false reports.⁵⁴

- An announcement in which the organization rejected the one-sided report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) according to which the Islamic Emirate was responsible for most of the attacks against civilians in Kabul. The organization added that it takes various steps in order to prevent harm to civilians, including better guidance and training for the mujahideen attacking the enemy. The organization also claimed that there has been a noted increase in the use of heavy weapons and missiles used by the Americans in their night assaults and by the government in Kabul, which has led to a greater number of civilian casualties.⁵⁵
- A video clip regarding an attack by the organization in the Bashran region of Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan,⁵⁶ and another video clip regarding a suicide attack that was carried out against the security forces headquarters in the Nawa region of Helmand Province.⁵⁷ In addition, the organization published a video clip regarding an attack that it carried out in central Farah Province in western Afghanistan.⁵⁸
- A video clip regarding the organization's recent achievements in Urozgan Province,⁵⁹ and another video clip regarding the capture of the central base in Tarinkot, the capital of the province.⁶⁰
- The official spokesman of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan, Zabihullah Mujahid, gave an interview to the newspaper, *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, regarding a number of issues in the Afghan arena. In the beginning of the interview, Zabihullah Mujahid denied that negotiations were held between the organization and representatives of the Kabul government in Qatar the previous week. In addition, he added that the leader of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Hibatullah Akhundzada, was not in hiding but rather was walking among the people and on the front. Nevertheless, he

⁵⁴ <http://alemarah-arabic.com/?p=32240>

⁵⁵ <http://alemarah-arabic.com/?p=32359>

⁵⁶ <http://alemara1.org/?p=66779>

⁵⁷ <http://urdu-alemarah.com/?p=14777>

⁵⁸ <http://alemara1.org/?p=67019>

⁵⁹ <https://justpaste.it/zk3g>

⁶⁰ <http://archive.org/download/Oruzgan-Canjawal>

claimed that the organization's members were taking all of the necessary precautions to guarantee his safety. Regarding the drones that the organization received one-and-a-half years ago in order to film suicide attacks, Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that they were an old acquisition and that the organization is meant to receive more advanced weapons. Nevertheless, he did not respond to the question of who was responsible for providing weapons to the organization. Regarding the Taliban's attitude towards Saudi Arabia, Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that since Muslim holy places are located in Saudi Arabia, the country has a responsibility to the Muslim world and Muslim issues. He added that the organization is taking steps to improve its relationship with Saudi Arabia. During the interview, he was asked about the organization's relationship with Iran and he denied that the Taliban had a representative in the country. Nevertheless, he claimed that the organization is trying any way possible to reach a regional understanding as part of the battle against the American invasion and, therefore, it maintains ongoing relationships with neighboring countries.⁶¹

It should be noted that, in an article published later in the jihadist magazine, *Al-Masra*, Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that *Sharq Al-Awsat* had twisted his words, and he denied what was published in the interview regarding the nature of the organization's relationship with Iran.⁶²

- Al-Fursan jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for the Taliban-Afghanistan, published a video about the life of the martyr, Azzam al-Najadi, which constituted part 8 in a series of publications titled, "The Martyrs of Khorasan".⁶³



Azzam al-Najadi

⁶¹ <http://www.alsomood.com/?p=15083>

⁶² <https://fotooh.org>

⁶³ <https://justpaste.it/z2g9>

- The Qatari Al-Jazeera channel and other Arabic-language media outlets reported that members of the Shi'ite Hazara tribe in Bamyan Province had joined the ranks of the Taliban-Afghanistan.⁶⁴

The Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

- Al-Malahim jihadist media institution published, which belongs to AQAP, published the following:
 - An audio clip titled, "They Should Warn their People" by Sheikh Khalid bin 'Umar Bartifi, a senior member of the organization. In the clip, Bartifi addressed the difficult situation of Sunnis in Syria, Iraq and Yemen due to the serious battles taking place there. For example, he noted that the UN is part of the Shi'ite Crusader conspiracy against the Sunnis in Syria in which Sunnis are slaughtered. He noted ironically that the sin of the Muslims besieged in Aleppo is their belief in Allah and their unwillingness to surrender to the tyrannical rulers. Regarding the Yemen arena, he noted that Sunnis are also being slaughtered there. According to him, the Saudi Air Force is bombing the Sunni population by claiming that to be fighting against the Houthis who are supported by Iran, and the Americans also take part in attacks on the civilian population in Yemen. A similar situation is taking place in Iraq, where the Sunni population in Ramadi, Mosul and other cities are being slaughtered by the Shi'ite-Crusader coalition, which claims that the war is aimed at defeating the "Al-Baghdadi gang".

Bartifi warned that, against the backdrop of instability in the region, Iran is stirring the pot and seeks to promote its master plan of seizing control of Mecca and Medina. In light of this, he called on Sunni clerics to preach and direct the attention of Sunnis to this danger. In addition, he implored clerics to help in the arenas of jihad since their support has considerable significance and urgency. He then called on Arab tribes to defend their honor and fight against the enemies of the Sunnis. In addition, Bartifi called on young people to help the jihadists on all of the fronts in any way possible, whether by joining them, supporting them financially or in other ways. Finally, he praised jihad fighters and

⁶⁴ <https://twitter.com/ajarabic/status/782978531554791424>

emphasized that their actions are important for the Muslim Nation as is unity among their ranks.⁶⁵



The banner of al-Bartifi's speech

- Ansar al-Sharia, which is affiliated with AQAP, published the following:
 - An announcement titled, “A clarification regarding the issue of the slain members of the Aal Bu Bakr bin Daha and Ibn al-Hayj tribes. At the beginning of the announcement, the organization noted that on November 29, 2016, AQAP had tried to clarify the circumstances leading up the deaths of several members of the Aal Bu Bakr bin Daha and Ibn al-Hayj tribes but that - due to the total lack of clarity in the matter - the tribe decided to avenge their deaths by killing a member of the al-‘Atiq tribe and, since then, the cycle of killing between the sides has not ended. In light of this, the organization explained that after establishing an investigative committee to review the matter, it found that “the death was caused by shrapnel from a roadside bomb that the organization had planted for the [Yemeni] army” next to Shabwa, and for this reason the organization takes responsibility. Therefore, the organization called on both tribes to end the cycle of revenge and turn to a shari’a court in order to settle their differences and reconcile.⁶⁶
 - A video containing graphs displaying the total number of military operations carried out by members of the organization during the hijraic year 1437 (2016-2017), including the number of missile attacks, car bombings, etc.⁶⁷
 - A video regarding the blocking of Houthi militia forces by the organization's operatives in several locations in Rada’ Province.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ <https://justpaste.it/awathpeople>

⁶⁶ <https://fotooh.org>

⁶⁷ <https://justpaste.it/TahtmoAnsar>

⁶⁸ <https://justpaste.it/goodguys>

The Islamic State

- Aden-Abyan Province of the IS published a video about the organization's martyrs who were killed in this province. The video, which opened with details about martyrs' death, documented the wills of martyrs who threatened that war in Yemen will continue until the application of shari'a.⁶⁹

Iraq

During the first half of October, preparations continued ahead of the battle to capture Mosul from the IS. According to estimates, Mosul is currently being attacked by approximately 60,000 fighters, including Iraqi and Kurdish forces who completed their advancement to their final positions ahead of the attack on the city.⁷⁰ Meanwhile, against the backdrop of preparations to attack the city, the IS executed 58 of its own members who it accused of planning to help the Iraqi regime capture key targets in Mosul.⁷¹ In addition, the organization blew up a booby-trapped drone next to Kurdish and French forces near Mosul.⁷² Moreover, IS attacks continued against security forces and Shi'ite targets in various places in Iraq, especially in Baghdad. In this framework, the organization carried out two suicide attacks targeting two Shi'ite processions in Baghdad in honor of Ashura.⁷³ In addition, the organization carried out a suicide attack at a Shi'ite market in northern Baghdad.⁷⁴

The second half of October opened with a declaration by the Prime Minister of Iraq, Haider al-Abadi, about the start of an operation to capture Mosul, the only large city left under IS control in Iraq. The ground forces taking part in the operation include the Iraqi army, the Kurds, local Sunni tribes and Shi'ite militias and receive aerial assistance from the US and coalition forces.⁷⁵ The attack

⁶⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CvtJAFIXYAAgEku.jpg>

⁷⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/14/last-battle-against-isis-in-iraq-forces-mass-for-mosul-assault> (English)

⁷¹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/report-isis-crushes-rebellion-plot-mosul-161014142437833.html> (English).

⁷² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/isis-drone-deadly-iraq-attack-161012151854280.html> (English).

⁷³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/suicide-bombers-target-shia-processions-baghdad-161003125928219.html> (English).

⁷⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37667092> (English).

⁷⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/iraq-pm-declares-offensive-retake-mosul-isis-161016195208936.html> (English).

began south of Mosul by army forces and east of Mosul by Kurds and elite units of the Iraqi army,⁷⁶ and later from north of the city as well.⁷⁷ The forces managed to reach the eastern and northern outskirts of the city within a few days, while their advancement from south of the city encountered resistance by the IS, which detonated car bombs and used residents as human shields.⁷⁸ In addition, IS fighters set alight a sulfur factory in the city of Mishraq, located south of Mosul, in order to make it easier for them to escape from the city. As a result of the fire, which led to the release of poisonous gases, hundreds of residents sought medical attention.⁷⁹ Moreover, IS fighters attacked in Kirkuk⁸⁰ and Al-Rutbah,⁸¹ which are far from the battle in Mosul, in order to divert attention from Mosul and raise the morale of the organization's fighters.

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Amaq news agency published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:
 - A. Battles and Military Deployments:
 - *Nineveh Province and Amaq news agency* published reviews and reports regarding the battles in Mosul. Among other things, they reported the repelling of an attack by the army and militias using the dispatch of nine suicide terrorists, as well as the destruction of tanks and armored vehicles using missiles and suicide attacks in villages next to Mosul.⁸² In addition, a video published by Nineveh Province titled, “The Eruption of War” documented battles against Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga militias.⁸³

⁷⁶<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/explosives-booby-traps-slow-mosul-offensive-161018140134022.html> (English).

⁷⁷<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/fierce-isil-resistance-iraqi-troops-move-mosul-161020185326305.html> (English).

⁷⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-idUSKCN12Q1FP> (English).

⁷⁹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37738667> (English).

⁸⁰<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/iraq-security-forces-fight-isil-gunmen-kirkuk-161022065428428.html> (English).

⁸¹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/isil-captures-iraq-town-ratba-mosul-battle-rages-161024191517704.html> (English).

⁸² <https://dawaalhaq.com/>

⁸³ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/56784>

- *Various provinces and Amaq news agency* published reviews and videos regarding various operational issues, such as: an announcement regarding approximately 100 people killed and injured in two suicide attacks against Shi'ite processions in Baghdad,⁸⁴ the penetration of forces into an Iraqi army site north of Rutba, the destruction of a tank north of Ramadi, the killing of 34 Iraqi soldiers in an attack west of Makhmur, the downing of a reconnaissance drone west of Mosul, the destruction of two Iraqi army tanks west of Makhmur, sniper fire against Peshmerga forces in Kirkuk, an announcement about the organization's capture of half of the city of Kirkuk, missile fire directed at army armored vehicles in Dijla, attacks against Shi'ite pilgrims in the area of Al-Khales in which tens of people were killed, battles in the area of Al-Sharqat and Al-Qayyarah in Nineveh Province, and attacks against Peshmerga forces in the city of Sinjar.⁸⁵

B. Executions:

- *Nineveh Province*: A video titled, "Deterring the Hired #2". The video documented the execution of people accused of membership in the 'M' movement, an IS opposition group, which sprayed the walls around the city of Mosul epitaphs of its opposition (the letter 'M' stands for the Arabic word, Muqāwama (resistance). In the video, it was claimed that the activists were recruited for money to act against the organization and were executed in various ways.⁸⁶

C. Propaganda and PR:

- *Kirkuk Province*: A video in memory of an IS fighter named Bilal al-Iraqi in which he told of his childhood in the town of Sulayman Bek, his Quran studies in university and the propaganda activities that he carried out to dissuade the Iraqi people from voting in the elections. The remainder of

⁸⁴ <https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Ct2CDtkWIAAzif61.jpg>

⁸⁵ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

⁸⁶ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/54634>

the video documented his activities in the framework of the organization through his training in a training camp and his participation in battles up until his death in a bombing by American forces.⁸⁷

Al-Sham [The Levant]

Syria

Jaysh al-Fatah

- Jaysh al-Fatah published an announcement in which it announced the end of the first stage in the battle to remove the siege from Aleppo, named after the martyr Abu Omar Saraqeb. The announcement also stated that the western suburbs of Aleppo that are still under the control of the Alawite regime will become military territory and called on residents in these areas to remain in their homes until the takeover of the city is complete. The organization also called on the mujahideen fighting in these areas not to harm the residents and to only fight against those who aim their weapons at them.⁸⁸

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham

- The Yaqut jihadist media institution, which belongs to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, published the following:
 - An announcement according to which Jamaat al-Murabitun joined Jabhat Fateh al-Sham.⁸⁹
 - An announcement according to which Jund al-Aqsa swore allegiance to the leader of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Abu Muhammad Al-Julani, in order to unite the ranks of the Syrian revolution.⁹⁰
 - A joint announcement by the organization and Ahrar al-Sham regarding the agreement reached between the two rebel groups to end their internal struggles against the backdrop of recent tension between Ahrar al-Sham and Jund al-Aqsa. According to the

⁸⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/54236>

⁸⁸ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CwAqChJWcAE9uC7.jpg>

⁸⁹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cu1Ow1bVUAEViON.jpg>

⁹⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuU1WcrWcAA4PwW.jpg>

agreement, all internal struggles will end immediately and prisoners will be released within 24 hours, except for those accused of murder and those with ties to the IS. According to the agreement, a legal committee will also be established to discuss the cases of the defendants and will convene within 48 hours.⁹¹

- A video clip in which the organization sent a message from Idlib, which was liberated by the organization, to Aleppo, which is still under siege by the Alawite regime.⁹²
- A video clip showing young people joining the organization's military training camps in Aleppo in order to lift the siege on the city.⁹³
- A video in memory of Abu Omar Saraqeb, the general commander and one of the founders of Jaysh al-Fatah, who took part in the battle for Idlib and in the removal of the siege on Aleppo. In the video, representatives of the five factions that founded Jabhat Fateh al-Sham were interviewed praising Saraqeb.⁹⁴
- The spokesman for Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Hussam al-Shafi'i, claimed that the organization rejects the conditions presented by Russia, according to which the organization must withdraw its fighters from Aleppo in order to end the attacks on the city. He emphasized that members of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham are residents of Aleppo and, therefore, Russia's recommendation is unacceptable and they will not abandon the city. He added that the US is cooperating with the Russians who have imposed their presence on the Syrian community and want to remove Ahal al-Sunna from the area. Al-Shafi'i further added that Russia is not only attacking Jabhat Fateh al-Sham but also educational institutions and clinics.⁹⁵
- A senior member of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Mostafa Mahamed, published an announcement about his resignation from the organization. According to the announcement, Mahamed decided to work on several independent projects to better serve the Iranian people. It also added that Mahamed's resignation has nothing to do with Jabhat Fateh al-Sham's disengagement from Al-

⁹¹ https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CubQ_QPXAAASv4Y.jpg

⁹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx-8H6APqu0>

⁹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQhVPO9d2U!>

⁹⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-kIMspgxNM>

⁹⁵ <http://al3asemanews.net/news/show/148377>

Qaeda, and that the disengagement was the right move for the organization and for the residents of Syria.⁹⁶

The Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars

- The Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars published the following:
 - A message of condolences over the death of a member of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Abu al-Faraj al-Masri. In addition, the announcement condemned the attack by coalition planes against the mujahideen.⁹⁷
 - An announcement regarding the conflict between Ahrar al-Sham and Jamaat Ansar al-Sham regarding the Khirbet Al-Joz border crossing, against the backdrop of the former's takeover of the crossing and its expropriation from the latter. The announcement called on both sides to settle the conflict between them in a shari'a court.⁹⁸
 - An announcement by the Shura Council of the Assembly of Al-Sham Scholars in which it described Jund al-Aqsa as "Khawarij" and claimed that it was acting against Muslims and the mujahideen in the Syrian arena and establishing ties with the IS. Later in the announcement, the Council asked the Syrian factions to keep track of dormant cells that maintain ties with the IS and to fight against them in order to put an end to their expansion among the mujahideen. At the end of the announcement, the Council called on members of Jund al-Aqsa to repent, turn over their weapons and posts to the Syrian factions, and surrender those who cooperate with the IS as well as those who take part in crimes against the jihadist factions.⁹⁹

Jund al-Aqsa

- Jund al-Aqsa published the following:
 - An announcement regarding the recent attacks by Ahrar al-Sham. In the announcement, the organization blamed Ahrar al-Sham for the tension between the two organizations

⁹⁶ <http://www.zaitonmag.com/?p=26541>

⁹⁷ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuGKQh4W8AAysn6.jpg>

⁹⁸ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Ct21216XgAgkNaO.jpg>

⁹⁹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuUUPCRWgAAEk7y.jpg>

due to its aggressive actions towards Jund al-Aqsa, which forced it to stop its operation against the Alawite regime in Hama in order to defend itself. The organization also called on Ahrar al-Sham clerics to intervene in order to free the organization's prisoners.¹⁰⁰

Ahrar al-Sham

- Ahrar al-Sham published the following:
 - An announcement clarifying the attacks by Jund al-Aqsa. According to the announcement, Ahrar al-Sham arrested an IS cell in an area under its control and in response, Jund al-Aqsa kidnapped a member of Ahrar al-Sham, shot his brother and beat his wife. Later in the announcement, it stated that when the organization had asked Jund al-Aqsa to return its fighter, the latter demanded the release of the IS cell in return. At the end of the announcement, the organization announced that it was giving Jund al-Aqsa 24 hours to return its fighter and others who were being held.¹⁰¹
 - A fatwa by several clerics belonging to Ahrar al-Sham regarding Jund al-Aqsa, in which the clerics accused the latter of helping the IS attack the mujahideen, sponsoring its actions and refusing to turn over its suspects to the court. The announcement added that, in light of this, Jund al-Aqsa must be battled until it retracts its oath of allegiance to the IS and renounces it.¹⁰²
 - A joint announcement published by Ahrar al-Sham, Ajnad al-Sham and Jabhat Ansar al-Islam in the name of the mujahideen in western Al-Ghouta. The announcement stated that every city must send its sons to defend the city and battle the enemy. The announcement also stated that the organizations are holding captives who believed the promises of the Alawite regime. At the end of the announcement, it stated that the organizations that signed it are acting as one body in western Al-Ghouta in order to fight against the enemy.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuG0hp7W8AER9qH.jpg>

¹⁰¹ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuHWZuCXgAAIPOa.jpg>

¹⁰² <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuQw7IJWAAAVtCa.jpg>

¹⁰³ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cu6fv0qW8AAAt71k.jpg>

- A message of condolences over the death of a Jaysh al-Islam commander, Ahmed Sanda, in battles in Aleppo.¹⁰⁴
- A message of condolences over the death of Sheikh Shuayb al-Arnaut.¹⁰⁵
- A video clip showing the training of the organization’s fighters in preparation for the battle over Al-Ghouta.¹⁰⁶

Ansar al-Din Front

- The Ansar al-Din Front published a message of condolences over the death of Abu al-Faraj al-Masri.¹⁰⁷

The Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham

- During the month of October, the Turkestan Islamic Party in Al-Sham published several videos encouraging fulfilment of the commandment of jihad; a propaganda video praising the success of its fighters in breaking the siege placed by Assad forces and Shi’ite militias on eastern Aleppo;¹⁰⁸ the recorded last will and testament of a fighter from Turkmenistan named Hudhayfa al-Turki who carried out a suicide attack using a truck bomb against Shi’ite militias in the area of southern Aleppo.¹⁰⁹



A photo of the martyr, Hudhayfa al-Turki

¹⁰⁴ <https://twitter.com/ahmadalhore1995/status/792719763508174849>

¹⁰⁵ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Cv6A5a-W8AAFL71.jpg>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is4dkgStkjl>

¹⁰⁷ <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/CuFx88SUMAAWkdv.jpg>

¹⁰⁸ <https://fotooh.org>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQXUWdYNPuu>

The Islamic State

- The media departments of the various provinces of the Islamic State in Syria published a range of videos and filmed reviews, which dealt with the following issues:

B. Battles and Military Deployments:

- *Al-Khayr Province:* A video titled, “Help from Allah and a Speedy Victory”, which documented the penetration of Syrian military sites in Deir Ezzor by IS fighters.¹¹⁰
- *Raqqah Province:* A video titled, “Time-Honored Glory”, which contained a collection of images from previous publications regarding the organization’s military achievements in the province. It seems that the date of the video’s publications stemmed from the organization’s fears of an impending attack and the entry of coalition forces into Raqqah in an effort to harness the organization’s past military successes in the province in order to inspire hope among its fighters.¹¹¹
- *Damascus Province:* A video titled, “War of the Parties”, which dealt with the organization’s takeover of Al-Yarmouk camp and included criticism directed against all of the factions located in Rif Dimashq while accusing them of “hostility against Muslims”. Nevertheless, half of the main criticisms were directed against the Front for the Liberation of Al-Sham and Aknaf Bait al-Maqdis, which was accused of stealing food and medication that were intended for civilians and of even planning to sign a ceasefire with Bashar al-Assad. In order to prove the organization’s control over the camp, the video showed the fighters applying shari’a (executions, lashes for sinners, destruction of cigarettes and musical instruments) and dealing with civilian issues (events for children, distribution of food, etc.). The video ended with a threat to capture the next city, Damascus.¹¹²

¹¹⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/54362>

¹¹¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/55579>; <https://goo.gl/xtO2Ky>

¹¹² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/55186>

- Various provinces and Amaq news agency: Filmed reviews and videos on various operational topics, including: ribat activities against the Syrian army in Palmyra, the launch of rockets towards army gathering points in Deir Ezzor, attacks against army sites in Aleppo's industrial area, the training of a new group of fighters in camps in Al-Hajar al-Aswad, in Damascus, a series of suicide attacks in Hamat, the execution of two Sahawat in Homs Province, the destruction of a T72 tank using a guided missile near Qiyara, skirmishes with the PKK south of Manbij, an attack by dozens of IS fighters against military barriers in eastern Palmyra, the capture of territories from the Turkish army south of the town of Al-Ra'i, battles in the area of Tallet al-Sawana, which is located near Homs, and artillery fire against the PKK east of Jabal Abd al-Aziz.¹¹³

B. Propaganda and PR:

- Aleppo Province: A video titled, "The Seekers of Life", a collection of the unique stories of several suicide terrorists. For instance, it showed a fighter known as Abu al-Faruq al-Shami who carried out a suicide attack despite the fact that he was paralyzed after being injured in battles (the organization provided him with an automatic car that he could operate using only his hands). The video included a description of other cases, including the stories of two fighters who held a lottery to see who would win the opportunity to carry out a suicide attack, as well as the story of a fighter who left his baby daughter before the attack at the encouragement of his father who explained that even though she is dear to him, "the religion of Allah needs blood".¹¹⁴

¹¹³ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

¹¹⁴ <https://goo.gl/3ek7bh>



The unique stories of martyrs in Aleppo Province

- Amaq news agency in Syria published a video regarding the reconciliation between two sub-tribes in the town of Shuhayl that was conducted under the auspices of the IS.¹¹⁵



Reconciliation between two feuding sub-tribes

The Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula

- Ahfad al-Sahaba, which is affiliated with the IS in the Gaza Strip, claimed responsibility for the launch of a rocket into the city of Sderot. The announcement stated that the launch was carried out using a locally produced 168 mm. rocket.¹¹⁶
- The Ibn Tamiyya Media Center, which is affiliated with the Palestinian Salafi-jihadist movement and supported by the IS, published the following:
 - A condemnation from October 17 over statements made by Mahmud al-Zahar, one of the leaders of the Hamas movement. According to the media institution, al-Zahar remarked that Hamas had arrested Salafi-jihadist operatives in the Gaza Strip due to their intention

¹¹⁵ <http://www.almlf.com/9o6vcf2qmczq.html>

¹¹⁶ <https://shamukh.net/vb> (Arabic).

to attack Egyptian security forces, but later retracted his statements and noted that those arrested belonged to the PA's security forces in the West Bank and even expressed his condolences over the death of Egyptian soldiers. According to the center, al-Zahar's statements were full of contradictions and lies. For example, al-Zahar lied when he claimed that those arrested belonged to the Salafi-jihadist movement since all of those being held by Hamas are mujahideen, sheikhs and preachers whose main interest in preaching the Oneness of God, or carrying out jihadist activities and launching missiles at the Jews. In the announcement, the center accused al-Zahar of making up an excuse for the arrest when he was really trying to protect Israel's security and please Egypt at the same time. In general, it is a commandment to fight against armies considered to be Muslim only in name, but not in their faith.¹¹⁷

- A condemnation from October 28 over a series of arrests recently carried out by Hamas against Palestinian Salafi-jihadists in the Gaza Strip. According to the institution, Hamas has been carrying out a policy of systematic oppression against members of the Salafi-jihadist movement for seven years and, in light of this, it is worth clarifying several points: all attempted oppression through humiliation, arrests, killings and more, will not defeat the Salafi-jihadist movement in the Gaza Strip nor will it succeed in changing the path of the movement, jihad and the dawah to which it adheres; the experience in Hamas jail only strengthens the will and determination of the fighters, and instills in them the ability to cope with such situations; the leadership of Hamas is pretending to sanctify war against Israel but is actually arresting Salafi-jihadist fighters in the Gaza Strip in order to prevent rocket fire at Jewish settlements.¹¹⁸
- A filmed review of a sit-in that was held by relatives of members of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Gaza detained by Hamas. The protest was held in Palestine Square in central Gaza and the relatives called for the release of the detained fighters.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁷ <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹⁸ <https://archive.is/zUvK6>

¹¹⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/55733>



Demonstrations by relatives of Palestinian Salafi-jihadists in Hamas prisons

- The fundraising campaign, “Arm Us”, which began over two years ago by Salafist-jihadist fighters in the Gaza Strip identified with the IS, continued. According to the campaign organizers, the goal of the campaign is to use the funds to purchase weapons such as missiles and guns to be used by the organization’s fighters against the Jews. In October 2016, many banners were published on the subject as was a video showing how the organization’s fighters use the weapons that they purchased thanks to the financial contributions to the campaign.¹²⁰



The banner of the “Arm Us” campaign

The Islamic State in the Sinai Peninsula

- The IS in the Sinai Peninsula published several announcements regarding its fighters’ operations against Egyptian security forces. For example, the organization claimed responsibility for the execution of a Muslim accused of spying for al-Sisi’s army;¹²¹ the assassination of five members of the Egyptian security forces as a result of an ambush in Al-Arish;¹²² and more.

¹²⁰ Telegram

¹²¹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/53885>

¹²² <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/53820>

Africa

The Maghreb

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- The jihadist media institution of AQIM, Al-Andalus, published the following:
 - An audio clip by the leader of the organization, Sheikh Abu Mus'ab 'Abd al-Wudud Drukdal, titled, "Benghazi and the Battle of Patience". In the beginning of his speech, Drukdal noted that with the outbreak of the revolution in Libya, Obama (President of the United States), Sarkozy (President of France) and Cameron (Prime Minister of Britain) joined forces to interfere with the revolution in order to put in power a regime that would be loyal to them, subservient to them and serve their interests. According to him, such a regime was established in Libya in the form of Haftar, who cooperates with the West and works for them in order to suppress the religion of Islam and the dignity of Muslims. According to him, three other tyrannical regimes can be identified that act similarly and cooperate with the West, namely Egypt, the Emirates and Jordan. In light of the battle in Libya, Drukdal called on the Libyan people and youth to help defend the nation, especially in Benghazi, which has lately been at the center of the battle between Muslims and the traitors who cooperate with the French and British.¹²³



The banner of Drukdal's speech regarding the battle in Benghazi

¹²³ <https://justpaste.it/z4nm>

- A video in which a Romanian security officer named Iulian Ghergut, who was kidnapped by Al-Murabitun (affiliated with AQIM) in Burkina Faso in April 2015, appealed to the Romanian government, in French, for his release and return to his family.¹²⁴



The kidnapped Romanian held by AQIM

- A video in which Abu al-Bara al-Sahrawi, a member of the organization, appealed to Muslim clerics to preach in praise of fulfilling the commandment of jihad and assisting jihad fighters.¹²⁵

Libya

The Islamic State

- A Libyan military source claimed that military forces succeeded in killing a commander named Abu Abdullah al-Ansari, who was considered the emir of the Islamic State's Tripoli Province. According to the announcement, al-Ansari was killed during battles in the city of Sirte.¹²⁶
- The IS in Libya published the following:
 - Tripoli Province: An announcement about 65 people killed and injured among Libyan unity government militias in an attack carried out east of Sirte. In additional gun battles, 46 other unity government forces were killed and injured.¹²⁷

¹²⁴ <https://justpaste.it/zx9q>

¹²⁵ Telegram Channel

¹²⁶ <https://goo.gl/0odaJd>

¹²⁷ <https://dawaalhaq.com>

- *Baraka Province and Amaq News Agency*: A report about tank bombings against Haftar forces' posts in Al-Gawarsha in Benghazi. An attack was also reported against Haftar's forces in western Benghazi.¹²⁸

Algeria

- The Dawa al-Haq news agency published a report according to which the IS claimed responsibility for the assassination of an Algerian police officer in the city of Constantine. It should be noted that some visitors responded to the report by claiming that there was no reason to kill the officer since Algeria is a neutral state that is not involved in the battle against the IS in Iraq and Syria. In contrast, others claimed that the officer served the “tyrannical regime” in Algeria and, therefore, it was a legitimate target.¹²⁹

Mali

Ansar al-Din

- The Amaq News Agency published a video showing the oath of allegiance taken by Al-Murabitun, under the command of Abu al-Walid al-Sahrawi, to the leader of the IS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.¹³⁰

Egypt

Hassam Movement

- The Hassam movement claimed responsibility for the assassinations of several Egyptian security forces in various areas in Egypt, including senior officers. For example, it claimed responsibility for the execution of Jamal al-Dib, a senior police officer who the organization accused of kidnapping hundreds of opponents of the al-Sisi regime as he left his house and headed towards his car.¹³¹

¹²⁸ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/54530>

¹²⁹ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/55621>

¹³⁰ <https://dawaalhaq.com/post/55763>

¹³¹ <http://telegra.ph/Hasam-6-12-18>



From left to right: A statement claiming responsibility for the assassination of Jamal al-Dib; Al-Dib's car where the assassination took place

Somalia

During the first half of October, Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen continued to carry out attacks against Somali security forces and the African Union Force, including a car bombing next to a prison in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.¹³² In addition, al-Shabab fighters attacked a base belonging to Ethiopian forces operating in Somalia in the Hiiran region in southern Somalia.¹³³ As a result of the attack, Ethiopian forces retreated from the base and Al-Shabab fighters seized control of it.¹³⁴ Meanwhile, in Kenya, Al-Shabab fighters attacked a residential complex in the area of Mandera in northeast Somalia, killing six Christians.¹³⁵ The organization threatened to continue carrying out attacks in Kenya as long as Kenyan security forces are operating in Somalia.¹³⁶

In contrast, Somali security forces killed 14 Al-Shabab fighters in the framework of an operation that took place in Lower Shebelle in southern Somalia.¹³⁷ In addition, in the framework of the battle against Al-Shabab, Turkey was about to open a military base in Somalia in order to train Somali soldiers.¹³⁸

¹³² <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/01/africa/somalia-mogadishu-car-bomb-prison/> (English).

¹³³ <http://www.garoweonline.com/en/news/somalia/somalia-al-shabaab-attacks-ethiopian-base-in-southern-somalia> (English).

¹³⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-37616973> (English).

¹³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/al-shabab-blamed-attack-northeast-kenya-161006052130719.html>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-37571205> (both in English).

¹³⁶ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201610100229.html>

¹³⁷ <http://aa.com.tr/en/africa/14-al-shabaab-fighters-killed-in-somalia/658706> (English).

¹³⁸ http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/10/01/Turkey-opens-first-African-military-base-in-Somalia/3351475329106/; <http://www.azernews.az/region/103096.html> (both in English).

During the second half of October, Al-Shabab increased its attacks in Somalia and Kenya. In this framework, al-Shabab fighters carried out a car bombing and shooting attack at a police station and African Union Force base in the city of Afgooye, which is located in Lower Shebelle in southern Somalia.¹³⁹ In addition, members of the organization carried out a car bombing at the entrance to a base belonging to soldiers from Djibouti serving in the African Union force in the area of Beledweyne in Hiran Province.¹⁴⁰ In addition, Al-Shabab fighters seized control of a city in Hiran Province after Ethiopian forces serving in the framework of the African Union force retreated from the city.¹⁴¹ Meanwhile, in northeast Kenya, Al-Shabab fighters attacked a guest house in the area of Mandera, killing 12 non-Muslims.¹⁴²

Meanwhile, an IS faction in Somalia managed to seize control of the ancient port city of Qandala, which is located in Puntland in northeast Somalia. Qandala was the first large city that the IS captured in Somalia.¹⁴³ Hours later, reports were received that IS fighters had left the city following an operation by Puntland security forces.¹⁴⁴

- The Amaq news agency published a report according to which IS fighters had captured the town of Qanada, near the city of Bosaso in eastern Somalia.¹⁴⁵

The East Africa Front

- The IS published a video clip in which IS fighters can be seen entering the port city of Qandala, which is located in Puntland in northeast Somalia, and raising their flag above the city.¹⁴⁶

The Indian Subcontinent

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

¹³⁹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/somalia-fierce-fighting-erupts-afgooye-161018150717137.html> (English).

¹⁴⁰<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/al-shabab-suicide-bomber-hits-au-base-beledweyne-161025100944121.html> (English).

¹⁴¹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/shabaab-seizes-somali-town-ethiopia-troop-pullout-161023133738854.html> (English).

¹⁴²<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/kenya-attack-12-killed-mandera-al-shabab-161025063500398.html> (English).

¹⁴³<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/isis-faction-raises-black-flag-over-somali-port-town/> (English).

¹⁴⁴<http://intelligencebriefs.com/pro-isis-terrorists-flee-qandala-in-puntland-after-brief-seizure-of-the-town/> (English).

¹⁴⁵<https://dawaalhaq.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CvtJAFIXYAAgEku.jpg>

¹⁴⁶<http://www.sawirroTV.com/2016/10/27/qaabkii-ay-qandala-ay-kula-wareegeen-video/>

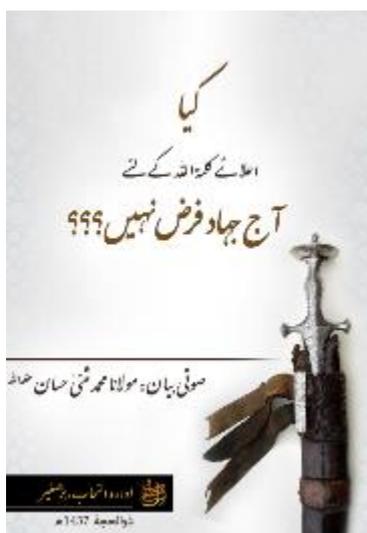
- Al-Sahab jihadist media institution, which serves as a platform for the official publications of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published the transcript of an audio clip in Urdu titled, “Is Jihad Not Compulsory Today?” by Mawlana Muhammad Muthni Hasan.

Hasan urged Pakistani Muslims to join the cause of jihad to save Islam from infidel armies (Western, American, Pakistani collaborators, Israeli). He began by saying that Allah set Islam on Earth for it prosper and grow, and to be protected by its adherents. For thirteen centuries, the rulers (Abbasids, Umayyads, Mamluks) did not allow Islam to weaken. He cited the words of Allah and the Prophet Muhammed who stated that the only way to revive the religion and weaken the infidel is through jihad and the killing of those who stand in the way and disbelievers.

Today, the West has convinced Muslims that they are “free”, but that is only an illusion and a deception – the reality is they are prisoners. There are Muslims and Muslim lands (Palestine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia) that are being suppressed infidel regimes. The enemy has already declared war (America and Israel).

“Today it is our responsibility to spread the word of jihad in Pakistan in order to revive the glory of Islam again, and to spread the word of jihad throughout the country. Pakistan was created for Muslims after a long struggle and its purpose was propagate the word of Allah. However, the army and political establishment have tried to prevent this from happening by cooperating with the West and infidel countries. Relying on them for anything is fruitless, since they are the enemy as well. The solution lies with us – to leave our homes and fight. It is of utmost important that we rally Muslims against the generals and armies of America and Israel, and organize and fight for the Islamic Law and freedom”.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷ <https://fotooh.org/index.php/s/Lk6pl3ISUyIULzQ#pdfviewer>



The banner page of the audio clip's transcript

- The Usama Media jihadist media institution, which is involved in publicity for Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, published a series of propaganda materials in Bengali on topics such as the importance of fulfilling the commandment to wage jihad; presenting the Pakistani regime in a negative light; and more. Some of the propaganda materials were translated from previous publications by Al-Qaeda and the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.¹⁴⁸



The logo of the Usama media institution

Indonesia

- Al-Furat jihadist media institution published a video showing the shared lives of the Indonesian migrants who arrived to live in the IS alongside the local resident supporters. In the video, which was both in Arabic and Indonesian, the supporters explained the importance of the migrants to

¹⁴⁸ <http://alfidaaforum.net/vb> (Arabic); <https://usamamediaweb.wordpress.com/2016/10>

the social fabric of the Caliphate and thanked them for the efforts that they made to arrive there. In contrast, the video included testimonials by the migrants who spoke about their absorption and thanked the residents of the Caliphate who welcomed them and helped them.¹⁴⁹



An idyllic portrayal of the lives of supporters and refugees in the Caliphate

¹⁴⁹ <https://goo.gl/VpeLbu>

ABOUT THE ICT

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